DESU and NTPC to replace those electrostatic precipitators which are not working.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now understand why Shri Sitaram Kesri has been given this house. They all wanted to choke him.

Next Qeustion.

*157. [*The questioner (Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal) was absent. For answer vide cols. 40-41 infra.*]

Cleaning of Ganga

*158. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what financial and technical assistance has been sought, negotiated, provided or assured by foreign Governments in the project for cleaning Ganga; and

(b) what is the present status of these various foreign collaborations for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) the Government on its own has not sought technical or financial assistance from any foreign Government for this project. However, offers of assistance from France, United Kingdom, and Netherlands have been received.

(b) These offers are under consideration of the Government.

SRRI JASWANT SINGH: I would request the Minister to be very brief in his reply because only 5 minutes are left.

Sir, let the Ganga be cleaned, it is a welcome measure and no one in the country will find fault with that proposition, but I am somewhat intrigued by the Minister's suggestion that without seeking any assistance for cleaning of the Ganga water we are being flooded, as it were, by foreign offers. Why should this profane wish to come to the Holy without our asking for it? It is something which I am unable to understand. Therefore, would the Minister clarify, firstly, what criteria pre-requisites yardsticks will the Government of India establish before actually going about awarding the contract of cleaning the Ganga?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Our position is quite clear. We have a project to clean Ganga and whatever expertise, technical know-how and resources are available with us, we shall go ahead with those resources and the technical know-how. But in such a big project if the world takes interest, or the countries with which we have bilateral relations show their interest— World Bank the U.K. which is one of the Commonwealth countries, the Netherlands with which we have bilateral relations and other countries like France—in those areas where we find that the technical know-how available there is superior and can get things done in a quicker manner and in a more beneficial manner, we shall certainly accept those offers of cource after evaluating the assistance which they want to provide and also after assessing our own capabilities to what extent we are capable, financially and otherwise, to go on with some projects without any assistance.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Well, Sir, he has attempted to give the criteria. Mr. Chairman, the impression that I have gathered from the hon. Minister's reply is not the impression which is otherwise prevailing. The impression is that the 'French' the British and the Dutch are falling over themselves to clean the

Ganga and we have not yet decided who is actually to do it. Therefore while asking my second supplementary, I would request the hon Minister to clarify whether anything formal has been concluded with any of these three countries. And my second supplementary is that an impression has been created that the French are to be entrused with the responsibility of cleaning the Ganga at Varanasi Now the French who cannot even keep the Seine clean...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. You have put the question already.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, Sir. I have not finished my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are only supporting now the argument.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No Sir. Let me go to the question. The French could not even keep the seine clean. The Dutch say that they have taught the French every thing that is there to learn about cleanliness. I would therefore like to know from the Minister what has persuaded the Government of India to accept the French suggestion that they be permitted to clean a city which is in fact more ancient than the French nation itself.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Sir, the Government of India and the Central Ganga Authority have got its own plans for cleaning the Ganga and it has identified certain projects. As far as Varanasi is concerned, Varanasi is one of those areas in the whole Ganga project which has been identified as a place where the cleaning of Ganga should be taken care of. The French people have shown their interest in that particular project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has any contract been concluded? That is the question.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: No, Sir.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : मैं एक छोटा सा सवाल पूछना चाहता हूं। कुम्भ मेला लग रहा है हरिद्वार में। तो इस कुम्भ मेले के लिये गंगा की जो सफाई हो रही है उसमें क्या विदेशियों ने सहयोग दिया है या आप स्वयं उसकी सफाई कर रहे हैं जिससे कि कुम्भ मेला लगने से पहले गंगा की सफाई हो जाय ?

श्री जेड० आर० अन्सारी : कुम्भ मेले के नुक्त-ए-नजर से हारद्वार और ऋषिकेश में काम चल रहा है और कुम्भ मेला लगने से पहले गंगा में बहुत ही शुद्ध और पवित्र गंगा जल आपको उपलब्ध होगा।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : फारेन वाले उसको कर रहे हैं या नहीं यह तो आपने बताया नहीं ? मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि विदेशी उसमें कुछ कर रहे हैं या नहीं ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are foreigners helping you in cleaning of this?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: In that project of Hardwar and Rishikesh we are doing on our own.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sale of U.S. arms to Pakistan

*144. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

Will the PRIME MISISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Government have of late approved the sale of U.S. arms worth